

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 MBFR-03 T-03 GAC-01 ACDA-19

NIC-01 OMB-01 IO-12 SAJ-01 EB-11 AF-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /163 W

----- 075833

R 161810 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6913

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1449

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MARR

SUB: SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON CSCE, MBFR

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOBOLEV CALLED ON ME MARCH 16 AT HIS REQUEST AND ANNOUNCED UPON ARRIVAL THAT HIS PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS HIS GOVERNMENT' S VIEWS ON CSCE AND MBFR.

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2 WITH RESPECT TO CSCE PRINCIPLES, SOBOLEV SAID HE WISHED FIRST TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS MUST BE THE NUMBER ONE ITEM ON THE AGENDA, AND THAT INVIOABILITY MUST BE CONSIDERED BEFORE AND ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM THE QUESTIONS OF USE OF FORCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION (" AUTO- DETERMINATION"). WITH RESPECT TO SOURCES OF CSCE PRINCIPLES, HE SAID THAT REFERENCE ONLY TO MULTI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS WAS NOT SUFFICIENT: THE UN CHARTER, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT COVER EXPLICITLY INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS. SOBOLEV NOTED THAT IT WAS, HOWEVER, COVERED BOTH IN THE AGREEMENTS WITH WEST GERMANY AND IN THE US- SOVIET DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THESE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS LEGITIMATE SOURCES OF CSCE PRINCIPLES.

3. SECONDLY, SOBOLEV SAID, HIS GOVERNMENT INSISTS THAT THE APPROPRIATE CSCE COMMITTEE CONSIDER PROVISIONS OF NON-DISCRIMINATION IN TRADE. WITH SOME INDIGNATION HE ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOW REQUIRED TO PAY TARIFFS THREE HUNDRED PERCENT HIGHER THAN THOSE EC COUNTRIES CHARGED OTHERS, ESPECIALLY SOME " ASSOCIATED" AFRICAN STATES.

4. THIRDLY, SOBOLEV SAID, HIS GOVERNMENT THOUGHT THAT THE AGENDA MUST INCLUDE AN ITEM ON A " CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE". HE SAID IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT ON BILATERAL BASIS AMONG THE 34 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES, BUT MUST BE COORDINATED. ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE USG WANTED TO WAIT AND SEE THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE BEFORE AGREEING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER, NUMEROUS OTHER UNSETTLED ISSUES WERE ON THE AGENDA AND HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THIS ITEM COULD NOT ALSO BE INCLUDED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO MBFR, SOBOLEV SAID THAT THE LAST WESTERN PROPOSAL WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE ACCEPTED OR NOT. HE SAID HE REALIZED IT REPRESENTED A COMPROMISE AND THUS DESERVED CAREFUL STUDY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIET POSITION WAS CLEAR: IF WE WANTED DELIBERATIVE STATUS FOR HUNGARY, ITALY WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE SAME STATUS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE DID NOT INSIST UPON A DELIBERATIVE STATUS FOR HUNGARY THERE WAS NO PROBLEM, SINCE HUNGARY HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED A CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSULTATIVE STATUS. I REMINDED SOBOLEV THAT THE ITALIANS HAD

ALSO MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE INCLUDED AS A DELIBERATIVE PARTICIPANT, AND CERTAINLY ITALY COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A PART OF CENTRAL EUROPE. WITHOUT RESPONDING TO THE IMPLICATION THAT HUNGARY MIGHT NOT SHARE SOVIET VIEWS, SOBOLEV SAID THAT THE CENTRAL ISSUE WITH RESPECT TO HUNGARY WAS THAT, UNDER THE WESTERN PROPOSAL, EVERY WAR-SAW PACT COUNTRY WITH STATIONED FORCES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE DELIBERATIVE AREA WHILE ALL THOSE OF NATO WOULD NOT. I NOTED THAT THERE WERE, OF COURSE, SOME BASIC ASYMMETRIES, SOME OF WHICH DID NOT FAVOR US. HENCE, IT WAS NOT EASY TO ARRIVE AT SIMPLE FORMULATIONS ON PARTICIPATION. SOBOLEV SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE BENELUX PROBLEM, AS WELL AS THE PROBLEM WHICH WOULD ARISE FOR WEST GERMANY, WERE THE BENELUX COUNTRIES NOT INCLUDED. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONCLUDED, THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT ACCEPT DELIBERATIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL WP COUNTRIES HAVING STATIONED FORCES.
STRAUSZ- HUPE

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